

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

September 2013

What I Learned This Summer

(specifically from Vacation Bible School)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

-Acts 1:8

In many churches, summer is at a slower pace; regularly scheduled activities, classes, and programs take a break; members and friends travel and are more likely to be out of town. Summer is a time for holidays and vacation, of getting away to the mountains or to the beach, or just resting the days away on the back stoop and finding a little rejuvenation in the change of rhythm and/or scenery. That may be how some of our August goes, but in July at Trinity Reformed, we are all abuzz with Vacation Bible School!

VBS is very important at Trinity. I'll allow Liz, our VBS Director to report more about it later here in *the Chimes*. But what I'd like to do is share **five “takeaways”** of VBS—a kind of show and tell, if you will, as we “return to school,” or at least return to a more regular church year schedule. And perhaps most significantly, these five aspects aren't merely highlights of our summer activities, but core ingredients of **who** we are at Trinity and **what** we are all about.

I'll give you that sometimes in the midst of preparations it can be hard to see how things fit together. As so many helpers cut out cardboard figures, carve Styrofoam pieces, glue felt, weave cords, and paint, paint, paint oh so so so much, it is easy to wonder: what is this for? As others donate specific sizes of paper plates, M&M's, or crossing all over Queens shopping for other specific (yet random) items, one can ask: why? And still others are brutally working in the hot and humid oven of a sanctuary rewiring the sound system, fixing lights, and updating our computers, even I question: is this really necessary? But then when everything comes together and the entire church building is full of children and parents and neighbors, with

the VBS volunteers each with a variety of jobs but all focused on one primary purpose and goal: that *every child and adult here knows just how incredibly they are loved by God, and this God in Jesus Christ desires to be in relationship with them.* That is what every little detail is aimed at, what all the sweat and preparations and expenditures are for. This for me is a snapshot of what Trinity exists for. Sure, at VBS the message is aimed at the children and delivered at a child friendly level. With others the church works with it may be delivered differently, and maybe with a different level of maturity. **But still the mission of the church is clear: to call all to respond to God's love and to follow Christ.**

To be the church is to grow in our bond with one another, what we call a covenant relationship. From this comes how we practice congregational care and fellowship. Still, as counterintuitive as it may seem, as important as the church is to the church—that is, to her members, the church family—the real reason (call, purpose) of the church is for the world. **The church exists for the world that it might know God, to be a sign and a light of God's reign.** The second show and tell takeaway of VBS is how cool it is that so many give so much of themselves so that the children of our neighborhoods can know God's love. Because the truth is most of the children and families who participate in the VBS are not members of Trinity. Would it be nice if they were? Sure! But that is not why we do what we do. We (the church) do what we do because God does what God does. We don't do it for us, for ourselves.

I keep saying we, and I mean we in the broadest sense. We are the church. And VBS is a mission and ministry of Trinity Reformed Church. Nearly fifty different volunteers worked the particular week of VBS, but the work and effort put into that week took weeks and months and even years of preparation. VBS is not just something that some select group of *other* people do. It takes all of Trinity joining together giving of their time and resources, sharing in the work, and most importantly, praying. The sayings seems

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**Our vision is
to help
people find
New Life in
Jesus Christ!**



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cliché but is extremely true: **it takes a village**. VBS takes a village to accomplish and the village is Trinity Reformed Church. Thank you!

Building on that village motif, however, is the idea of partnering. It's not just Trinity folks.

Trinity's VBS is about partnering with all whom God sends to us, learning from one another, and enriching the overall experience we are engaged in. We are so blessed at Trinity to have what we call "extended church family" members—people who are part of nearly a dozen other church homes—who come and partner with us in this amazing VBS outreach. And although partnering is an effective way for the VBS to work, and it has evolved into this relationship, we do for another more important reason: partnering is how God works inviting us to work following Christ footsteps and partnering with the Holy Spirit. Thank you to all our partners! Thank you, God!

The last takeaway I'd like to share has to do with impact. I must admit that during that week of VBS, it is exhausting around here. The days begin early, are filled with intensity, and go late into the evenings. It is tiring. But it is also immensely invigorating. The energy of the children is infectious. And to sing and pray every night in the sanctuary that is spilling over with people, well that too is amazing. But ultimately, the week comes to an end. The materials are packed away and the sets and scenery are disassembled and a kind of rest sets over the premises of Trinity for a while. It can seem we spend weeks climbing up the mountain, a week on its heights, followed by a kind of—I don't know, maybe a let down—once we settle back in the valley. Growth, however, happens down here too; often this is especially where it happens. VBS is a fun week, but the real impact is seen later. Later as the kids return to school and their bible buddies remind them of the lessons they've learned over the summer and the CD's of the VBS music start to wear out over being used so much and the volunteers have gone back to their day gigs, this is **where the real impact of VBS happens**. Do the kids remember what they learned? Do the leaders believe what they taught? Does anyone see a God sighting? I have heard and seen and know that they do! The impact is real. Maybe we all can have that takeaway.

May all know the incredible love God has for us and may we live it out in all that we do. As we move into late Summer and Autumn, may we all show and tell.

In Christ's Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tom

General Synod

Our own Erik Huneke attended last June's General Synod of the Reformed Church in America in Pella, Iowa as an Elder delegate. Erik reported on the various resolutions and business of the synod at a Second Sunday Symposium at Trinity in July.



Picture was taken by Nicholas Biondo and appeared in the Aug 1st edition of TimesWeekly.

Vacation Bible School

God's love helps us...

Family and friends help...

Prayer helps us...

Trusting God helps us...

The Bible helps us...

STAND STRONG!

Standing strong for God is what this year's Vacation Bible School "**KINGDOM ROCK**" was all about. During the week of July 22-26, with the help of close to 50 volunteers, 90 children from our church and community learned how to *stand strong* for God through worship songs, hands-on Bible stories, tasty snacks, fun and exciting crafts and games and our very own wacky knight-in-training...Sir Wally! At the end of each night we met in the sanctuary to share what we had learned with each other and our parents and friends. Pictures can be seen on Trinity's website www.trinityqueens.org.

As we have in the past, the Vacation Bible School also participated in Operation Kid-to-Kid, a unique opportunity where our VBS participants get to learn about kids in other parts of the world, various challenges they might face there, and ways to partner with them. This year the kids were in India and along with learning about their lives and cultures—including a really cool Hindi dance troop who shared with us one night a live performance!—we learned the importance of having access to God's Word. In some places people cannot read the Bible because they do not have it in their language, or even, large portions of their community are illiterate. So we partnered with RCA Global Missions and Audio Scripture Ministries and connected with Pastor Tom's friend in India (and Michigan), Rev. JP Sundararajan, to help provide Audio Bibles so that others could also hear God's Word like we did during VBS. \$35 provides a compact handheld device much like an iPod that allows listeners to hear the entire scripture in their heart language. We even saw this device in use and Skyped with JP one night! Over the course of the week, we raised a total of \$1130.34, enough for 32 Audio Bibles. But more importantly, we connected with other kids around the world and prayed for them.

And the fun didn't end there. We all gathered together on Sunday for our VBS Finale worship service followed by a church-wide BBQ. It was a huge success with over 150 of our Trinity and VBS family sharing fellowship with each other and enjoying all the delicious food that everyone brought.

WWW.TRINITYQUEENS.ORG—EMAIL: LIFE@TRINITYQUEENS.ORG

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Trinity family for your prayers, love and support and generous donations. Without you, we could never offer this wonderful, often life-changing ministry to the children of our church and community. Please know what a difference **you** help make in their lives.

And to the **“KINGDOM ROCK”** team—THANK YOU!!! It was an exhausting but oh so gratifying couple of weeks. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, energy and enthusiasm and most of all your love which you share with all our children. It is because of you that they keep coming back year after year. You are all a blessing to them and to Trinity. It has been a pleasure sharing this time with you.

Love and Peace,
Liz ☺



In June, Trinity conducted a church wide rummage sale that proved to be quite successful. A total of \$500.00 was raised for Trinity’s general fund to help with expenses. Thank you to everyone who contributed items, helped out, or purchased things.

CROP Walk

The Ridgewood Glendale Church Laity Association will sponsor another CROP Walk on Saturday October 5 at 9:00 a.m. at Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village. The money that is raised will be donated to Church World Services to help alleviate world hunger. Last year Trinity Reformed Church raised \$ 1,430.00. year. If you would like a little exercise, then plan to walk with us and be at the park at 9:00 a.m. If you can’t walk, then sponsor a walker. If you have any questions, please speak with Gerard Tate or Bill Voges.

Happy September Birthdays

Daniel Wtorkowski	1 st	Philip Febel	5 th
Annalee Pfisterer	5 th	Elsie Heck	9 th
Hildegard Febel	10 th	Billy Mohr	10 th
Amanda Trautmann	12 th	Pastor Tom	17 th
Matthais Adamek	18 th	Robert Groezinger	19 th
Hanna Hessenius	21 st	James Hoffman	23 rd
Thomas Goodman	24 th	Merilyn Amoroso	28 th
Sarah Murphy	28 th	Hubert Lehfellner	29 th

Das Walte Gott

Das walte Gott, der helfen kann
mit Gott fang ich die Arbeit an,
mit Gott nur geht es gluecklich fort,
drum ist auch dies mein erstes Wort:
"das walte Gott."

God is my help, His will be done;
with Him my daily work's begun.
I tread my life's path joyously,
if on these words my focus be:
"Thy will be done."

translation by R.Walz

Prayer List

Please be mindful of the following members and friends of our congregation in your prayers:

Sister Kaethe, health; Janet Roth, health; Martha Bauer, health; Frederick Dalm, healing; Groezinger Family; Philipp & Hildegard Febel, healing; Laura Kurtz, health; Debra Meraglia, health & healing; Eleanor Rizzo, health & healing; Donna Dowd, healing; Doris Church, healing; United Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood and Pastor Henry Fury; Bill Albanese, health & healing; Susan Gebhart, health & healing; Maritza Garcia-Castro, health & healing; Fritz & Betty Klaar, health & healing; Anibal Segarra, safety & protection; Martin Seidl, health & healing; Barbara Burger, health & healing; Clara Gomez, health & healing; Felder Williams, health & healing; Mildred Schleeauf, health & healing; Church on the Hill, transitions; Amanda Trautmann, health in pregnancy; Louis Graniti, health & healing; Isabel, Marcia, and Jade; Andrew Holbrook, health & healing; Reinhard Groezinger, health & healing; Marie Shanelly Alvarez; Reformed Church in America, Queens Classis, and Regional Synod of New York; Dave & Char Alexander, RCA missionaries in Taiwan; Doug Leonard, RCA missionary in Oman; Peter Mark Trautmann, The Navigators at NYU; Leonard & Linda Schiefer, Gideons International; Pastor Tom and the Consistory.

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Months of</u>	<u>May/June/July 2013</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 19,231.00
Utilities	\$ 3,932.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 254.00
Maintenance	\$ 220.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 110.00
Other Disbursements*	\$ 7,825.00

Total Expenditures \$ 31,572.00

<u>Receipts for Months of</u>	<u>May/June/July 2013</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 14,870.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 294.00
Benevolences	\$ 1,129.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 410.00
Special Offerings	\$ 237.00
Other Receipts**	\$ 18,524.00

Total Receipts \$ 35,464.00

*Insurance, taxes, coffee hour expenses, Classis Assessment, children’s ministry, office supplies, alarm system contract, Words of Hope

** NA/Alanon groups, Classis Assessment, Ladies Aide donation, children’s ministry, rummage sale, hall usage, insurance refund

**The “Other Receipts” also includes a transfer of \$ 10,000.00 from the Memorial Fund because the offering envelope contributions were insufficient to meet expenses.

September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship Service, Holy Communion 10:00 am	2 NA Mtg. 7pm	3 Al-Anon 7:30pm	4	5 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4 pm	6 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4 pm	7 Consistory Training @ Church on the Hill 9am
8 Worship Service 10:00 am	9 NA Mtg. 7pm	10 Al-Anon 7:30pm	11	12 NA Mtg. 7pm	13	14 Couples and Friends 6pm
15 Worship Service, Holy Communion 10:00 am	16 NA Mtg. 7pm	17 Al-Anon 7:30pm	18 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm	19 NA Mtg. 7pm	20	21 NA Mtg. 7pm
22 Worship Service 10:00 am	23 NA Mtg. 7pm	24 Al-Anon 7:30pm	25	26 NA Mtg. 7pm	27	28 NA Mtg. 7pm
29 Worship Service 10:00 am	30 NA Mtg. 7pm	Al-Anon 7:30pm			Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am Junior Church Sundays 10am	